



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Memorandum

DATE: January 25, 2011

TO: All Licensed Ambulance Services
All Off Line EMS Medical Directors

FROM: Robert Galli, MD
State EMS Medical Director
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

RE: Induced Hypothermia Procedure

Use of Induced Hypothermia (IH) with the post arrest patient in the pre-hospital setting was recently presented at the Medical Direction, Training and Quality Assurance Committee (MDTQA) of which I chair as State EMS Medical Director.

MDTQA reviewed a number of studies conducted suggesting the beneficial effects of induced hypothermia, evidence and proposed protocol supporting this procedure and concluded the following:

1. This procedure can improve outcomes of patients;
2. May be problematic to chill fluids in the field;
3. Procedures in this proposed protocol are within the scope of practice of a Mississippi paramedic.

However, it is not only essential but mandatory that any EMS protocols for IH be implemented and maintained in conjunction with a hospital program that will continue the treatment. This collaboration is necessary for both the best result of the procedure as well as patient safety. Where EMS may feel it necessary to proceed with initiating this protocol, it would be prohibited if none of the local emergency departments have the capability of sustaining and continuing treatment.

To ensure this quality assurance is in place. IH protocols for Mississippi licensed EMS services should be submitted through the normal Bureau of EMS approval process in addition to the following:

1. A letter of verification from each receiving hospital of IH patients shall be included with the proposed protocol;
2. Plan to ensure 100% quality assurance review on patient care reports of these patients;

3. Confirmation of synchronization of efforts between EMS and hospital staff for joint training and continuing education

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Alisa Williams (Director, Bureau of EMS) or myself at 601-576-7380.

Thank you for your continued support of Mississippi EMS.